

Metro Parks' Centennial Art Center Gallery presents:

**BARBARA REMBERT, MIXED MEDIA**  
**TOM RICE, SCULPTURE**  
**SAM SIMMS, STAINED GLASS**

***June 4 – July 28***

Opening Reception: Friday, June 4, 5 P.M. to 7 P.M.



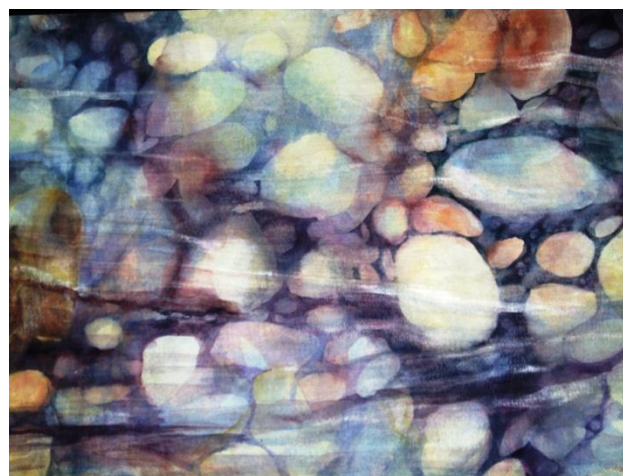
Nashville TN— Recent works by 2-D mixed-media artist Barbara Rembert, sculptor Tom Rice and stained glass artist Sam Simms will be on display in [Centennial Art Center's](#) gallery June 4 – July 28. An Opening Reception in the artists' honor will take place on Friday, June 4, from 5 P.M. to 7 P.M.



*Jacks in the Pulpit*, watercolor by Barbara Rembert

Nashvilian Barbara Rembert works primarily in watercolor and mixed-media. Many of her paintings are inspired by the beautiful natural areas of North Carolina and Tennessee, and often impressionistically interpret lakeshores, trails and the wild flowers of *Radnor Lake*. Also intrigued by Tennessee fossils, she frequently uses them as inspiration in her mixed-media works. Ms. Rembert reflects, "I am sure I was influenced by my father's years as a National Park Ranger, and by a childhood spent in half-a-dozen of the National Parks, including *Glacier* in Montana, *Mammoth Cave* in Kentucky and *Acadia* in Maine." Many of her paintings are included in private collections, and her works

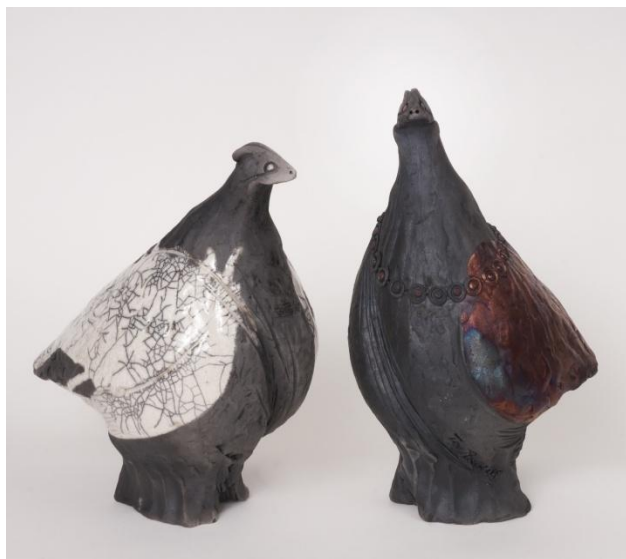
have been juried into *Central South Art Exhibitions*. She is an honorary life member and signature member of the Tennessee Art League. Rembert teaches a popular class covering a variety of water-media techniques on Saturdays at Centennial Art Center (in Nashville's Centennial Park). She shares, "With the help and inspiration provided by the Visual Arts Program at Centennial Art Center – and especially by my friend and teacher, Hazel King – I have learned that each painting has a life of its own, moving one through hope, excitement, set-backs, trying again and – if all goes well – leading the artist to a satisfying conclusion. The only thing more exhilarating than applying that final brush stroke to my own work is encouraging my students through the same process."



*River Stones, II*, watercolor by Barbara Rembert

Sculptor Tom Rice was born in Olympia, Washington and grew up in Illinois and Tennessee. He works in a variety of mediums, including wood and clay, with his main focus being limestone that he carves into elegantly simpli-

fied bird forms, bird baths, garden benches and vessels. Recent works combine a variety of materials into totemic assemblages. His sculpture career began under Professor Olen Bryant at Clarksville's Austin Peay State University (where Rice earned a B.S. Degree). Tom Rice truly values art education – evidenced by his MS Degree from the *University of Tennessee* in Art Education. Having taught art in public schools for twenty-five years, during that time, Tom continued his own education, including studies at *Arrowmont School of Arts* in Gatlinburg, TN, a residency with Japanese Master Potter, Shiro Otani, a *Fulbright Grant* to both Belgium and the Netherlands and during an *Artist Exchange Program* in Basel, Switzerland. Now working full-time as an artist, Rice's works are included in numerous private collections and in the permanent collections of *Arrowmont School of Arts*, *Austin Peay State University*, *Cheekwood Museum of Art* in Nashville, *Clarksville Public Library*, *Metropolitan Nashville Airport*, *Tennessee State Museum* and *The White House* in Washington, D.C. (among others).



*Two Raku-Fired Clay Birds*, by Tom Rice

Tom Rice's many honors include being awarded *Best of Show* at the 1999 and 2000 *Tennessee Crafts Fairs*, the *Judges Choice Award* at the 1999 *Renaissance Center Regional Art Exhibition* in Dickson, TN, *Best of*



*Sleeping Bird*, limestone sculpture by Tom Rice

*Sculpture at the 2000 Memphis Arts Festival Juried Art Exhibition, and Merit Award at the American Craft Council Southeast Region, Annual Juried Exhibition 2001.*

Centennial Art Center has a long-standing relationship with Tom Rice, who first exhibited there in 1988. He says, "The gallery is a handsome space with walls of glass and natural light combined with a professional staff and convenient location. It remains my preferred exhibition space in Middle Tennessee. I believe it to be one of Nashville's best galleries. I also enrolled in (Centennial Art Center's) clay sculpture classes in 1988 and continue to this day. Most of the clay pieces in the current exhibition have been created in these classes." He has works on display on an ongoing basis in the Center's Herb Garden courtyard area, and new works will join that display for this exhibit.

Stained glass artist Patrice "Sam" Simms was born in Amityville, New York, and came to Tennessee in the early nineteen-



seventies. She studied Commercial Art at *Watkins College of Art* and began working



**Stained Glass, Mixed Media Mirror Shelf** by Sam Simms

with stained glass in 1987. Today, she is the owner of [Stained Glass Accessories](http://www.stainedglassaccessories.com) on Fatherland Street in Historic East Nashville, where she operates her studio, creates custom-designed commissions, sells supplies and offers classes. Her works often evoke such comments as, “unique,” “original,” creative,” “fun,” and yes, even “funky.” She says she “...approaches her art from different directions, depending on inspiration and purpose...” She may create a totally abstract, contemporary window, then next, make a whimsical mirror or picture frame with found objects as additions. Undeniably, Simm’s stained glass works are – from initial conception to completion – one of a kind, handcrafted, “functional works of art.” Combining the use of a glass-cutting band-saw and the “copper-foil technique” (the method

most commonly used for smaller works), her works include jewelry, mirrors, picture frames, one of a kind stained glass panels and windows. Simm’s glass art has been displayed in galleries throughout the United States (including Hawaii), and her creations can be found in European collections, as well. Describing her art, Simms explains, “My work in stained glass is far from the traditional look. My passion is for the different hues created by the light and combining those into a one of a kind piece of art...”

Brenda McSurley, Centennial Art Center’s Director, says “We are pleased to once more offer the public an excellent exhibit of local, talented visual artists’ works!” Refreshments will be served during the Friday, June 4, 5 P.M. – 7 P.M. reception, and admission is free. Centennial Art Center is located at the 25th Avenue North and Park Plaza corner of Centennial Park in Nashville, TN, and Gallery hours are Mon. – Thurs, 9:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. Visit <http://www.nashville.gov/parks/cac.asp> to find out more about Metro Parks’ Centennial Art Center. PH (615) 862-8442.



**Stained Glass Hanging Panel** by Sam Simms